

Republicans this week are going to cut those taxes and let Americans keep more of the fruit of their labors.

ARE WE TAKING CARE OF OUR NATION'S CHILDREN?

(Mr. ROEMER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, 22 percent of our Nation's children live below the poverty line—22 percent. That is the largest percentage of any developed country. So what are we doing about that? Are we acting in a bipartisan way to make sure that we take care of our Nation's children? No.

In this reconciliation package this week, we are cutting Head Start programs by \$137 million, kicking children out of existing programs; and this is a program that President Ronald Reagan sought to increase funding for.

At the same time, lobbyists are arguing very successfully for more funding for B-2 bombers that the Defense Department does not even want, and we are cutting children out of Head Start programs.

Mr. Speaker, this is coldhearted, this is short-sighted, and I hope that we work together in a bipartisan way to take care of our Nation's children, 22 percent of which live below the poverty line.

THE ASSAULT ON CHILDREN

(Mr. KLINK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KLINK. Mr. Speaker, last week, it was the assault on the elderly. This week, as budget reconciliation comes to the floor of the House, the assault is on children.

Let me talk for a moment, Mr. Speaker, about my home State of Pennsylvania. The Republican Medicaid plan would eliminate coverage for as many as 114,892 Pennsylvania children and 4.4 million children nationwide. We are also going to cut in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh infant mortality programs by 52 percent.

We have heard a lot about tax credits. That is nonrefundable. How many people who have two or four children at the end of the year owe \$1,000 or \$2,000? Actually, when they eliminate the earned income tax credit, families with two or more children in Pennsylvania will face an average tax increase of \$448 under the Republican plan.

This plan will deny Head Start to 6,000 children across Pennsylvania and 180,000 children nationwide. It will deny 45,000 Pennsylvania students basic and advanced skills in 1996 by cutting title I. The cuts just keep on coming, Mr. Speaker.

THE MEDICARE BILL WILL COST SENIORS MORE

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I have been saying for some time on the floor that the Medicare bill which passed the House last week, the Republican-sponsored Medicare bill, would cost seniors a lot more. They would have to pay more in order to get less quality care.

I was therefore amazed when I found out that when the bill came up, a rule that was adopted in this House in which the Republican leadership boasted about requiring a three-fifths vote majority to raise any taxes was waived when the Medicare bill came to the floor last week. That was a recognition of the fact that this bill had major tax increases, doubled premiums for part B for physicians' care, eliminated the guarantee that certain low-income seniors have their Medicaid part B paid for and also implemented a means test which required seniors to pay more.

There is no question in my mind that what that Medicare bill did was charge a lot more to seniors in order to finance this tax cut that is coming up this week, a \$245 billion tax cut that is going to be going mainly to wealthy Americans.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WANT ACTION

(Mr. WELLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, last week, President Clinton was caught in the act of selling another huge whopper to the American people. This time Bill Clinton told an audience of fat cat Democrat contributors that he thinks his 1993 tax increases were a mistake.

He then attempted to hide behind his mother by saying he forgot her advice about making a speech after 7 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, I have not forgotten my mother's advice. My mother told me to go to Washington and cut taxes, save Medicare, reform welfare, and balance the budget. My momma wouldn't care how tired I was or about the time of day. My mother and my constituents gave me a clear agenda that I will not back away from. No more excuses, no more inside-the-beltway gimmicks. The American people want action and they want Congress and the President to do the right thing for America's future—even if it means working late at night.

GO BRAVES

(Mr. LEWIS of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, Ted Turner has done it again. Turn on

your TV. Turn on almost any channel. You can't miss it. The Atlanta Braves are back—back in the World Series—to claim what is theirs.

Not since the Yankees of old has a baseball team stood so tall for so long. Bobby Cox has built a team for the ages—a team for destiny. Maddux. Glavine. Smoltz. Avery. Wohlers. The Murderer's Row of the 1990's—the pitchers no team wants to face.

The defense of Belliard, Lemke, and Grissom—the power of Justice, Klesko, Jones, and McGriff—they inspired Atlanta to forget the strike, to believe.

So I say to my friends from Ohio—get ready to rock and roll.

It's two and "Oh" and two to go. The Braves will not be denied. They cannot go back, they must not go back, they will not go back. Go Braves, Go Braves, Go Braves.

NEW MAJORITY WILL DELIVER TAX CUTS

(Mr. BALLENGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, this week the new majority will deliver on the tax cuts we promised during the last election. We will provide much needed relief to overburdened families.

In 1948, the average American family with children paid only 3 percent of their income to the government. Today, that same family pays 24.5 percent. In fact, the average family pays more in taxes than it does on food, clothing, and housing combined.

Our \$500-per-child family tax credit will provide relief to more than 35 million American families. For families with two children, that's \$1,000 that is now in their hands—not the government's.

In addition, the \$500-per-child tax credit will eliminate the tax burden for 4.7 million families.

Mr. Speaker, all Americans deserve a tax cut. President Clinton believed this when he was a candidate. This week, Republicans will deliver.

WHERE IS THE BILL?

(Mr. STUPAK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, we are going to vote on reconciliation this week, and the last speaker in the well said that they are going to keep their contract provisions and give everybody a tax break. Well, here is a draft of the reconciliation bill. It is 1,563 pages. On page 1,563 title 19 says, contract tax provisions, text to be supplied. Text to be supplied.

They do not have a bill. We will never see the bill, but they are going to expect every one of us, 435, to vote on it come Thursday, a bill we have never seen.

Mr. Speaker, we know from the past 10 months what the Republican plan